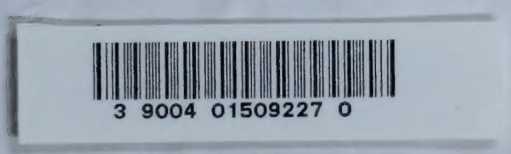
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(Published in the Press, June 19th, 1918.)

MILITARY SERVICE ACT.

MEN NINETEEN AND TWENTY YEARS OF AGE.

It has come to the attention of the Government that there is a widespread impression that young men of nineteen years, and those who became twenty since October 13th, 1917, as well as those who may become nineteen from time to time and who have been or will be called upon to register under the Military Service Act, are to be immediately called to the colours.

This impression is quite incorrect. No date has yet been fixed for calling upon such men to so report for duty, nor has the question been brought before the Cabinet for decision. In view of the need of labour on the farm it is most unlikely that consideration will be given to the matter until after the harvest is over, although, of course, the Government's action must be determined primarily by the military situation.

There is no further obligation incumbent upon young men who have registered or who do so hereafter, until they receive notice from the Registrars.

HARVEST LEAVE.

Some inquiries have been received as to the possibility of granting harvest leave to such troops as may be in the country at that time. No definite assurance can be given on this point as advantage must be taken of ships as they become available. *On the other hand, harvest leave will be given if at all possible.*

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ON GROUNDS OF EXTREME HARDSHIP.

It is desired that the regulations respecting leave of absence in cases of hardship should be widely known and fully understood. Such leave will be granted in two cases: (a) where extreme hardship arises by reason of the fact that the man concerned is *either the only son capable of earning a livelihood, of a father killed or disabled on service, or presently in service overseas, or in training for such service, or under treatment after returning from overseas;* or the *only remaining of two or more brothers capable of earning a livelihood* (the other brother or brothers having been killed or disabled on service, or being presently in service overseas, or in training for overseas, or under treatment after his or their return from overseas); *brothers married before the 4th August 1914,* living in separate establishments and having a child or children not to be counted, in determining the fact that the man is the "only" remaining son or brother. (b) Where extreme hardship arises by reason of exceptional circumstances, such as the fact that the man concerned is the *sole support of a widowed mother, an invalid father, or other helpless dependents.*

IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT IN ALL THESE CASES THE GOVERNING FACTOR IS NOT HARDSHIP, LOSS OR SUFFERING TO THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED, BUT TO OTHERS, THAT IS, MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY OR THOSE DEPENDING UPON HIM.

PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

A simple system for dealing with these cases has been adopted. Forms of application have been supplied to every Depot Battalion and an officer of each battalion has been detailed whose duty it is to give applications immediate attention. The man concerned should *on reporting to his unit* state that he desires to apply for leave of absence on one or more of the grounds mentioned and his application form will then be filled out and forwarded to Militia Headquarters, Ottawa. *In the meantime, if the case appears meritorious, the man will be given provisional leave of absence for thirty days* so that he may return home and continue his civil occupation while his case is being finally disposed of.

ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENSE,
AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

629—D.P.—M. and D.—1,000-19-6-18.

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(Published in the Press, June 19th, 1918.)

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